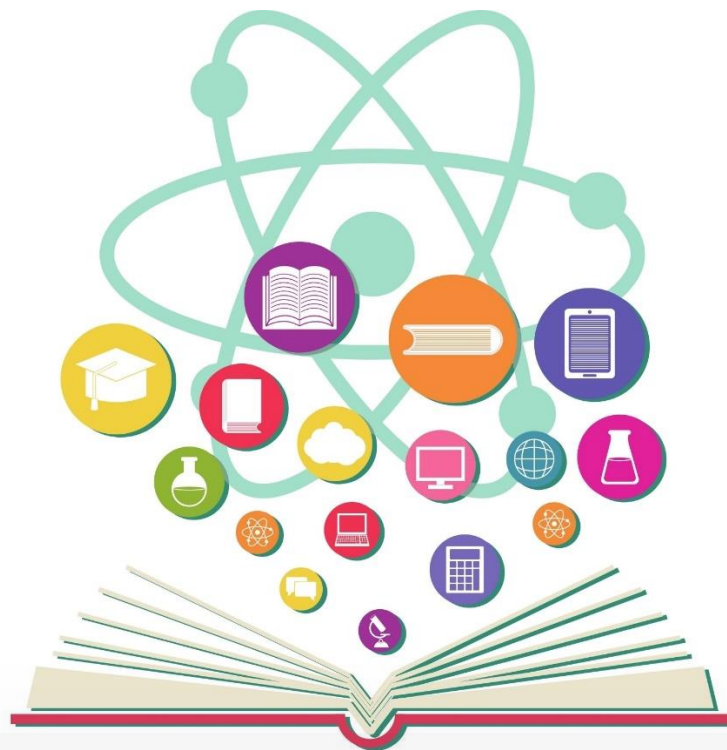


READY FOR LEARNING

2021-2022

Arkansas School for the Deaf



Safe. Ready. Engaged.

A forward-thinking plan for opening school.

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INTRODUCTION

As we consider the 2021-2022 school year, our reality in Arkansas keeps changing. In the few short months since school ended in May, the resurgence of variants of COVID has once again brought our full attention to creating a safe learning environment for our students

As updated information and guidance is made available by the Arkansas Department of Education and the Arkansas Department of Health, the teachers at Arkansas School for the Deaf will continue to adapt quickly to the new reality - leading the way in demonstrating creativity, dedication, and above all, concern for our students' wellbeing.

On July 27th, The Department of Health and the Arkansas Department of Education released a report with the following statement:

School districts are advised to continue practicing preventative measures such as appropriate masking, physical distancing, screening, testing, ventilation, handwashing, and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and cleaning and disinfection to the extent practical.

Based on this guidance, ASD will continue practicing preventative measures to ensure the health of all of our students and staff.

While the new school year brings another set of unanticipated challenges, I assure you, we want nothing more than to get back to our love of teaching and learning in the classroom. We love our students and the traditions and experiences that bring us all together each year.

Our plan took a village to create, and it will take a village to implement. We are all in this together to return to learning SAFE, READY and ENGAGED.

Dr. Janet Dickinson

Superintendent

KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE

When opening school in the midst of an active pandemic, it is critical that we do everything we can to keep our students, staff, and families safe.



We have researched extensively the guidance of the most highly respected entities, including:

1. [Arkansas Department of Health](#)
2. [Arkansas Department of Education](#)
3. [CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#)
4. [American Academy of Pediatrics: COVID-10 Planning Considerations- Guidance for School Re-Entry](#)

OUR 2021-2022 PLAN IS ALIGNED WITH THE BEST THINKING IN SAFETY FOR THE REOPENING OF SCHOOLS. BASED ON A REVIEW OF THE RESEARCH, THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS ARE IMPORTANT:

1. Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces, as often as possible
2. Wash Hands, as often as possible
3. Social Distance & Reduce Contact in Transitions – to the greatest extent possible
4. Encourage Everyone to Wear Masks
5. Use Outdoor Spaces - as often as possible
6. School Pivots to Virtual Learning – During Times of Department Closure

SCHOOL CALENDAR & SCHEDULE

There will be no changes in the school calendar or schedule.

For the 2021-2022 School Year, we will return to the traditional schedule.

ASD will have classes on campus from Monday – Friday. Students will travel to school on **Sunday**. All students will ride the **BUS** home on **FRIDAY** afternoon.



IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO PARENTS

1. BEFORE SENDING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL

- Look for signs of ILLNESS.
- KEEP them home when they are sick.

2. BE PREPARED TO PICK UP YOUR CHILD- QUICKLY

- Make sure the school has your BEST CONTACT information.
- If your child becomes ill at school, come IMMEDIATELY to pick up your child.
- Please know that ASD will NOT be able to transport sick students home for you.



GENERAL INFORMATION



Vaccinations

COVID-19 vaccines are the most effective strategy to protect people from getting sick and to reduce the risk of people spreading COVID-19. Students who are ages 12 and older are now eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccination. We highly encourage staff and students (12 years & older) to be vaccinated. However, there is no requirement to be vaccinated.

If you need any information regarding COVID-19 vaccines, please contact Health Services nursing staff at 501-772-6008. ASD will host vaccine clinics as needed for students, staff, & family members.

MASKS

Wearing masks has been shown to be one of the most effective ways to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Regardless of whether you are vaccinated or not, wearing a mask protects yourself and others; as well as allows you to serve as a role model for younger children who are not vaccinated and need protected.

Students, Staff & Visitors Masks Policy

All students, staff, and visitors shall be required to wear a mask while at school, except for the following:

- May remove masks for eating or drinking;
- May remove masks when appropriate (6 feet) physical distancing is ensured;
- May remove masks while actively participating in physical activities if:
 1. physical distancing of (6 feet) is ensured, and/or
 2. the mask is inhibitory to the activity

Students may be exempted from this policy if the principal or nurse determines that an individual student can be waived due to special behavioral or individualized needs, a medical condition or disability.

A parent may request that their student be exempt from this policy by contacting Dr. Janet Dickinson, Superintendent, and making such request. This policy will be revisited by the ASD/ASBVI Board of Trustees at each monthly Board meeting to determine need for continuation of policy.

SOCIAL DISTANCING & OTHER MEASURES TO MINIMIZE CONTACT

To prevent the spread of the coronavirus, ASD staff will take measures to follow social distancing guidelines, such as limiting group sizes, keeping students THREE feet apart, restricting non-essential visitors, and closing communal spaces. For common areas, the following measures will be in place:

Elevators: All elevators on campus are limited to two people at one time.

Stairways: One staircase is reserved for going upstairs and the other for downstairs.

Hallways: Halls are marked for reduced contact traffic patterns.

WASHING HANDS

According to the CDC guidelines, regular handwashing is one of the best ways to remove germs, avoid getting sick, and prevent the spread of germs to others. At ASD, all staff, and students will be encouraged to wash their hands at the following times:

- Arrival to the facility and after breaks
- Before and after eating, helping feed children, and preparing food or drinks
- Coming in contact with bodily fluid, using the restroom or helping a student
- After playing outdoors
- After being in a public place and touching surfaces frequently touched by other people
- Before touching eyes, nose, or mouth



STEPS FOR WASHING HANDS

1. **Wet** your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold)
2. **Apply** soap. & **lather** your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
3. **Scrub** your hands for at least 20 seconds.
4. **Rinse** your hands well under clean, running water.
5. **Dry** your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

HAND SANITIZER

USE HAND SANITIZER WHEN YOU CAN'T USE SOAP AND WATER

- Sanitizers do **not** get rid of all types of germs.
- Hand sanitizers may not be as effective when hands are visibly dirty or greasy.
- Sanitizers can quickly **reduce the number of germs** on hands in many situations.

CLEANING & DISINFECTING

According to the CDC, cleaning and disinfecting are part of a broad approach to preventing infectious diseases in schools. ASD has a stringent plan to ensure that high touch areas are cleaned and disinfected multiple times each day.

The CDC guidance explains the differences below:

CLEANING removes germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces or objects. Cleaning works by using soap (or detergent) and water to physically remove germs from surfaces. This process does not necessarily kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.

DISINFECTING kills germs on surfaces or objects. Disinfecting works by using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces or objects. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.

SANITIZING lowers the number of germs on surfaces or objects to a safe level, as judged by public health standards or requirements. This process **works by either cleaning or disinfecting** surfaces or objects to lower the risk of spreading infection.

Ventilation/Air Circulation

Evidence suggests that improved air circulation is beneficial in reducing the spread of COVID-19. Whenever possible, windows will be opened to improve air flow by allowing outside air to circulate in the building, and thereby lower the concentration of viral particles.

DAILY HEALTH SCREENINGS

Health Screenings for Students Upon Arrival at School

Students will be screened daily with temperature checks upon arrival. The temperature checks will be conducted by trained staff using a touch-free thermometer.

Students who have a fever of 100.4° (38.0°C) or above or other signs of illness will immediately be taken to the nurse's station.

Daily Health Screenings for Students

Students will be screened each morning before entrance to school by a trained staff member using a touch free thermometer. The screening form will be turned into the health services staff daily when the screening is completed. The temperature will be recorded in the student's electronic health record. Students who have a fever of 100.4° (38.0°C) or above or other signs of illness will immediately be taken to the nurse's station..

Students with Abnormal Temperatures

When a staff member checks a student's temperature and obtains a high reading, they will take their temperature again. If the reading appears high again, the Director of Health Services will be contacted immediately. The Director of Health Services will contact the parents/guardians to share with them what the next steps are for the parents. Parents will need to be prepared to travel to the school immediately to tend to their child's needs.

Staff Screening

All staff members will be required to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms daily prior to reporting to work. The Completed COVID-19 Employee Health Screening Form must be submitted to health services weekly via campus email. This information is imperative for contact tracing during this pandemic.

COVID-19 EXPOSURE & TESTING

How will I be Informed of Possible Exposure at ASD:

Through contact tracing, our nursing staff, in collaboration with Arkansas Department of Education and Arkansas Department of Health will assess and inform all persons who may be at risk and require quarantine and/or testing. If there is a possibility that a student has been exposed to COVID-19, the child's parents will be notified directly.

What Happens If a Student or Staff Member Has Been In Close Contact With Someone Outside of ASD Who Tested Positive For COVID-19?

- Fully vaccinated students or staff do not need to quarantine if deemed close contacts, unless they have/develop symptoms.
- Students and staff members who are not vaccinated may need to be quarantined.

For questions, call or text our Director of Health Services, Vicki Crump at: 501-658-0971.

What Happens If A Student or Staff Member Has COVID-19 Symptoms

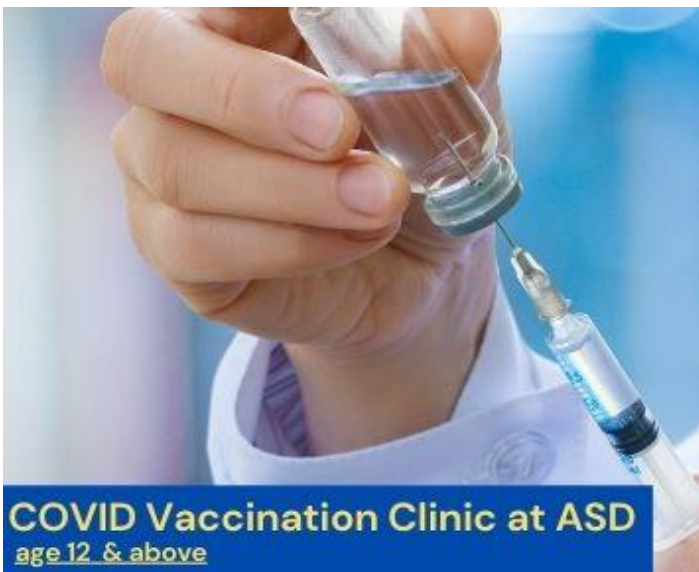
If a student or staff member has a temperature higher than 100.4 or develops COVID-19 symptoms, they will not be able to stay at ASD. Instead, they will be referred for evaluation by their healthcare provider and possible testing.

For students staying in the dorm, it is critical that we are able to quickly address any possible exposure to protect our students and staff. Students will be referred to our school doctor at Children's Hospital for evaluation, and possible COVID19 testing. For dorm students, parents will sign a permission form for COVID19 testing during the registration process. If the school physician deems COVID-19 testing is necessary, ASD Nursing Staff is trained through the Department of Health to administer a rapid response test on campus.

Returning to School after Testing for COVID-19

A student or staff member with COVID-19 symptoms will need to be tested.

- If **NEGATIVE**, the test results will have to be conveyed to Vicki Crump, Director of ASD Health Center.
- If **POSITIVE** for COVID-19, the student or staff member will be isolated for 10 days and must have a release from their health care professional or the release from the AR Department of Health onboarding packet before returning.



Leopard Spot

- **August 5, 2021**
2:00p - 6:00p

- **August 11, 2021**
9:00a - 1:00p

AND...more to come throughout the school year!

COVID Vaccination Clinic at ASD
age 12 & above



TEACHING & LEARNING

At ASD, we believe deaf and hard of hearing children learn best in the classroom. Therefore, our 2021-2022 Ready for Learning Plan is based on ALL students returning to campus for on-site instruction. However, in the case of a COVID outbreak, ASD classes will be accessible to students who are quarantined at home.

Whole School May Be Required to Pivot to Virtual Learning

It is possible that the entire school may need to alternate between classroom instruction and virtual learning throughout the year due to large scale quarantines or recommendations and guidance from Arkansas Department of Education and Department of Health.

The level of infection, the spread of the virus and response to the pandemic in our community will be at the forefront of our decision making as we move to open our school.

Parent Meetings

All parent meetings are encouraged to continue through Zoom whenever possible.





HEALTH SERVICES

CONTACT INFORMATION

VICKI CRUMP, RN

Director of ASD's Health Services

Phone (Text or Voice): 501-658-0971

Health Services goal for ASD's "Ready for Learning" Plan is to keep students and staff healthy and safe during this pandemic.

ASD Health Services adheres to COVID 19 guidelines set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Arkansas Department of Health and the Arkansas Department of Education. Following these basic principles can help keep our students, teachers, and staff safe at school and help stop the spread of this disease.

New Home for Health Center:

This year, our nurses have moved to a beautiful newly renovated infirmary on the campus of the School for the Blind.

PPE in Health Services

- Health Services staff will utilize PPE per CDC and ADH guidelines. When providing direct care, the school nurse will wear the required PPE when performing procedures. (N-95 masks, gloves, gowns, etc)
- Everyone entering Health Services must be wearing a mask and use hand sanitizer.

What Happens When A Student Becomes Sick

1. ASD Staff will notify health services immediately of any students who become ill, or any absences of students due to any suspected illness relating to COVID-19.
2. The student will be evaluated by our Health Services Team for COVID-19 symptoms.
3. If the student presents with symptoms of COVID-19 symptoms, the school's physician, Dr. Eduardo Ochoa, will be notified for direction to perform a rapid response COVID-19 test on campus.

4. Parents will be notified.

5. TESTING & CARE

DAY STUDENTS:

- Parents will come to the school for immediate pick-up.
- They will be encouraged to take the student for COVID-19 testing or have test performed at ASD.
- Student must be cleared by a physician before returning to school.

DORM STUDENTS:

- Dorm students will have a rapid response COVID-19 testing administered at ASD. *(Parents will have given permission during the registration process)*
- After testing, students will return to ASD isolation suite until picked up by parent/guardian.
- All meals for students in isolation will be delivered to Shibley Hall by cafeteria staff.

If A Student or Staff Member is Positive for COVID-19

Our Director of Health Services will follow the Department of Health guidelines for a positive case of COVID-19 in the school. Since our ASD Nurses have been trained in contact tracing by John Hopkins, they will be asked to assist in contact tracing.

Based on the guidance from the Department of Health and the Arkansas Department of Education, ASD may need to close the department or the entire school. In the case of a temporary school closure, students will pivot to virtual learning until it is safe to return to school.



